



# Kennel Connection

See Page 3 For Adoptable Pets Available Now!

Vol. 1 Issue 4

Newsletter of Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center

Winter 2015

## A Posey By Any Other Name . . .

by Linda Shea

Kitten 16-0568 arrived at animal control as a stray on August 7th. She was in the mix of 17 other animals brought to the shelter that day: 9 other strays, 5 owner surrenders, 2 pets taken into temporary custody because the owner was hospitalized, and 1 bat.

As one of 18 animals of a variety of species, 16-0568 didn't initially gain anyone's attention. Within a couple of days, though, a long-time supporter of the shelter noticed 16-0568 on our stray page and came in to inquire as to whether this little girl might be part Maine coon. I wandered back to visit with the kitten, who was actually a generic-looking domestic medium hair brown tabby. However, her personality was anything but generic. She came right to the front of the cage to greet me and was extremely affectionate. I was immediately



enamored with her. I named her "Posey"—a temporary association after the person who inquired about her.

Upon examination by our shelter veterinarian, Posey was found to have lice. While lice is species-specific, it is extremely contagious and thus reasonable cause for euthanasia in a shelter environment. Lice, like other parasites, can be persistent, difficult to treat, and debilitating to already compromised animals. For this charismatic young girl, however, we took a chance, choosing treatment over euthanasia.

Posey's treatment involved shaving her fur and implementing a strict cleaning routine to minimize the chance of spreading the lice to other felines in adjacent housing units. Posey stayed a longer-than-usual time in our Sick Isolation area. During her stay, she was the heart-stealing subject of our first Facebook "name the kit-

ten" contest, gaining her even more attention and the name Gemma.

Gemma (who will always be Posey to me) was moved to the adoption floor on September 3rd and was adopted on September 9th by Sue Harvey.

In her forever home, Kitten 16-0568 received her third (and final) name—Gidget—and met her new feline sister Molly, a shelter alumna from 2012. Gidget's trademarked affectionate nature persists in the form of frequent cuddling. "In the morning," notes Sue, "I usually find her sleeping by my side." As with any new addition to a home with a resident pet, time and patience are required to achieve harmony. "We're still working out the forever relationship between [Gidget and Molly], but that's getting better too," says Sue. "We're committed to both our girls!"

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

On October 5th, 2015, Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center (FCAC) lost a treasured member of our shelter family. Achilles, a 5-year-old pitbull mix, developed "bloat" (gastric dilation and volvulus), a common, rapidly progressing condition that often kills, even with treatment. We recognized the symptoms right away and rushed Achilles to a veterinarian, but it was too late.

Achilles was a favorite of FCAC staff and volunteers, who worked with him on obedience, kept him socialized with other dogs, and gave him lots of love and playtime during his 3 months at the shelter. Although we are devastated by the unexpected loss of our buddy, we hope his story will help other dogs and the families that love them.

In fact, Achilles' story has two morals. The

## Achilles' Heel

first, of course, is this: **Protect your best friend from bloat—learn about the risk factors and be able to recognize the symptoms.**

Although the causes of bloat are not well understood, dogs may be more likely to bloat if they have a deep chest, eat one large meal per day, eat rapidly, eat or drink to excess, engage in heavy exercise after eating, eat only dry food (especially a food that lists fats or oils among the first four ingredients), or are older. Risk may also be somewhat higher for certain large or giant breed dogs and those fed from elevated feeders.

Early symptoms include abdominal distension, unsuccessful attempts to belch or vomit, looking anxious or looking at the abdomen, standing and stretching, and excessive drooling. Later symptoms may include panting or shortness of breath, weakness, or collapse.

The second moral has to do with how we decide to treat our pets—as part of the family, or as property?

Achilles wasn't perfect. He pulled on the leash—hard. And he barked (a lot) when people passed by his kennel without stopping. But why was he here? It turns out this was his third time at the shelter. His previous two owners had surrendered him to FCAC—in both cases because they were moving and felt they could not take him with them.

Continued on Page 4

## Director's Letter: *Ageless Love*

by Linda Shea

November was Adopt-A-Senior-Pet Month. At the Frederick County Division of Animal Control and Pet Adoption Center, we do not qualify adoptability with a maximum age. Over the years, we have had many success stories associated with senior pet adoptions. Some examples include Maggie and Joe, a Chow Chow and Cattle Dog partnership in which both were over 10 years old; Toby and Lonnie—two 10-year-old Siamese cats who ended up at the shelter when their owner passed away; and most recently, Zeus and Hercules, our dynamic duo Shih Tzus that were both over 8. And none of us here will ever forget 12-year-old Elwood—a retriever whose owners turned him in as part of a family outing just before going to get a new puppy. All of these pets were made available for adoption and, as is often the case, their adoptive families could not say enough good about the experience.

The benefits of a senior pet often outweigh those of their younger counterparts. Seniors are often established in personality, understand the concept of rules and rewards, are less energetic (many times equating to less needy), and have had exposure to family dynamics. There is an obvious price with adopting a senior pet. The reality is that they have less lifetime left and they can require more veterinary care, which often translates into higher vet bills. However, we believe that good companionship is ageless ... and priceless.

■ Linda Shea is Director, Frederick County Animal Control.

## Holding Out for A Hero

There's no doubt—our foster care providers are heroes, working on the frontlines to save homeless animals. And right now, we could really use some fresh recruits.

What's it all about? Our foster care providers

- show shelter animals what it's like to live in a loving home
- raise a litter of kittens or puppies until they're old enough to be adopted
- work with dogs on obedience or behavior modification
- provide TLC to older animals and those with medical needs
- give shy pets a chance to gain confidence

We won't lie to you; fostering is not easy. But it can be so very rewarding and, most importantly, it saves lives. If you think you're up to the task, please contact Steve Matthews, Kennel Supervisor, at [smatthews@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:smatthews@frederickcountymd.gov) or 301-600-1307 for more information.

### Frederick County Animal Shelter & Pet Adoption Center

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## Talk to Us: News from the CAWAC

by Doree Lynn Miles

At our September 2015 meeting, the Companion Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (CAWAC) approved a 9-question survey to solicit feedback from local veterinary practices regarding Frederick County Animal Control services. The survey—which covers topics such as laws and ordinances, experiences with animal control officers, medical care for shelter animals, and outreach—was sent electronically to 44 area veterinary practices, clinics, and hospitals. CAWAC will use survey responses to ensure that county programs, policies, and procedures adequately address the welfare of companion animals. If you have any questions regarding this survey, please don't hesitate to send an email to [cawac.info@gmail.com](mailto:cawac.info@gmail.com).

We invite anyone who's interested in companion animal welfare to come out to our next meeting on December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Frederick County Animal Shelter, 1832 Rosemont Avenue, in Frederick.

■ Doree Lynn Miles is chair of CAWAC and proud momma to FCAC alumni, Chloe and Guinness.

## Thank You!

Those of you who have made monetary donations to the shelter may wonder what we do with these funds. Here are just a few examples of how your generosity has helped homeless animals over the past year:

- Supported our part-time shelter veterinarian, Dr. Sharon Thomas
- Paid for surgery and long-term physical therapy for a terrier mix named Maya (adopted!)
- Paid for the surgical amputation of a leg with an infected wound for a cat named Hermes (adopted!)
- Paid for bloodwork, chest x-rays, dental work, and follow-up oronasal fistula repair for an abandoned Chihuahua we named Cowboy (adopted!)
- Paid for bloodwork, dental work with extractions, and chest x-rays for an abandoned senior cat we named Sweetie (adopted!)
- Paid for abdominal x-rays, observation at a local vet, and ultimately abdominal surgery for a Lab named Hannah who ate part of a towel (adopted!)

On behalf of the many shelter animals who've benefitted from your gifts, thank you.



**Our Mission:** To prevent cruelty, abuse, and neglect of animals in Frederick County by enforcing all state, county, and city ordinances to the fullest extent possible. We will shelter homeless animals and attempt to place them in safe and loving home environments. We will educate the public on all animal issues to foster a more aware and caring community.

## It's the Law, Part 2—Simple or Gross Neglect

by Felicia Langel

The owner of a Virginia farm faces animal cruelty charges after authorities discovered the bodies of half a dozen dead horses amid scores of other animals they said had been neglected. The owner of the farm, Anne Goland, has been charged with 27 counts of animal cruelty after an investigation that began in October. When authorities arrived at the Peaceable Farms in Somerset, Va., on Oct. 19, they discovered the dead horses and five others that were in such poor health they had to be euthanized. There was also a dead donkey and many dead cats, dogs and chickens, a press release said.

—Victoria St. Martin, *The Washington Post*, Oct. 27, 2015

Under Maryland law, simple neglect of an animal is a criminal offense that can result in a misdemeanor charge of 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Simple neglect is the *unintentional* failure to provide reasonable care. *Gross neglect*, by contrast, is the *intentional* disregard for the need to provide care; if the circumstances of the case warrant, gross neglect may be prosecuted as a felony in Maryland.

Animal neglect specifically means the failure to provide adequate food, water, shelter, or veterinary care. When the neglect occurs over an extended period of time, animals experience a significant amount of pain and distress. For instance, as an animal starves to death due to a lack of food, its body slowly breaks down, causing pain at each stage of its deterioration.

Animal neglect is the most common form of animal cruelty

Continued on Page 4



Felicia Langel



## Featured Shelter Pets



View all of our adoptable pets on Petfinder ([www.frederick.petfinder.com](http://www.frederick.petfinder.com)) or Petango ([www.petango.com/fcac](http://www.petango.com/fcac)). Or stop by for a visit—you never know, you might just find true love!



### POD AND FALCOR

So, you're thinking about getting a ferret, are you? Do some research and give it some thought because you can't just shove us in a cage and toss in some food now and then. We need to play. We need to explore. We *will* get into trouble and we will depend on you to keep us from hurting ourselves. In short, we are a demanding couple of furballs! You think you've got what it takes? Good. Because we are so ready for a family of our own. (We're staying in a foster home, so if you'd like to meet us, be sure to call the shelter first before coming out.)



### WILLOW

I know what a home is. And a family. Actually, I've had two families. I've had the chance to get to know children, dogs, and other cats. I loved both of my families. And I think they loved me. They petted me and played with me, gave me good food, toys, and a soft bed near a window. But what I'm really looking for is someone who will love me and keep me *forever*. No matter what. Family sticks together, right? I'm ready to stick. Are you?



### ZEUS

I guess you could say I had a rough start to life. But here at the shelter, I've made a ton of friends—people who appreciate a good slobbery kiss! Life is really looking up, and I can't wait to find my very own forever home. Only problem is, my friends say I have a couple of "issues." Hey, they'd have issues too if they'd been through what I have! Anyway, they say it means I need to find a very special adopter—someone experienced with big guys like me; someone willing to work with me on my "issues;" someone who will commit to me for the rest of my life. Could that someone be you?



### HATTIE

I've done a lot of living for a 1-year-old. I was out on the streets, fending for myself, when a nice human scooped me up along with my three kittens. That's when things started turning around for me. I did lose one kitten—too sick to make it, they said. But during a stay in a lovely foster home, my other two kittens and I found out what love is. One of my babies has been adopted (yay!). Now little Harry and I are on the lookout for our own forever homes. Or maybe we could even go to the same home! I just hope you can look past my shyness. My foster family can tell you—I do warm up, especially if you bring out a feather toy!

# Tax Deductible Altruism

by Christine Biser

**D**id you donate pet supplies to Frederick County Animal Control & Pet Adoption Center (FCAC) in 2015? Did you bolster FCAC's medical fund by making a monetary donation? Did you foster a critter—or a whole litter of critters—for the shelter, incurring costs for pet food and travel?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, your efforts to help homeless animals may be tax deductible. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recognizes certain donations to local government agencies, like FCAC, as a charitable contribution. Such a donation lowers the amount of income on which you must pay personal income tax.

Of course, you will need to use IRS Form 1040, not the 1040-EZ, to claim your kindness. And you'll need to follow a few rules, summarized here:

If you donated used household items, such as towels or blankets, the items must be in "good or better" condition if you want to claim them on your tax return.

Ask FCAC for a receipt if your donation (the value of your monetary donation or the "fair market value" of donated goods) was more than \$75. For a cash donation, the receipt should be on FCAC letterhead; for check or credit card donations, your receipt must have been processed by a bank (a cancelled check, bank statement, or credit card statement).

For a donated service, such as volunteering at the shelter or fostering animals for the shelter, you may be able to claim your mileage for getting to and from the shelter. Just be sure to use the correct mileage rate—14¢/mile, instead of the 57.5¢/mile you would use for business expenses.

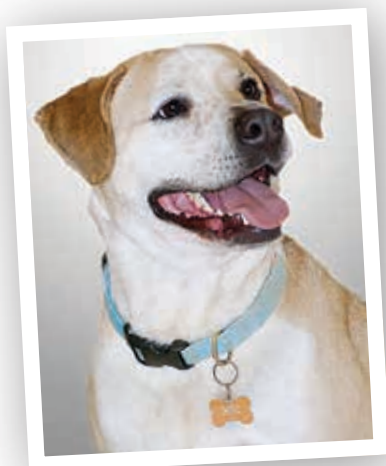
Your charitable deduction usually cannot be more than 50% of your adjusted gross income;

in certain circumstances, you may not deduct more than 20% or 30% of your adjusted gross income.

For more information, check out IRS Tax Tip 2011-57: Eight tips for deducting charitable contributions (<http://www.irs.gov/uac/Eight-Tips-for-Deducting-Charitable-Contributions>). This overview has links to other relevant publications, in which you can find more comprehensive instructions.

Of course, we don't donate or volunteer our time for the tax deduction; we do it to help homeless animals. But if you can reduce your tax bill a bit, why not? Think of it as a thank you for your kindness, direct from the federal government.

■ *Christine Biser helps homeless animals by fostering kittens for FCAC and by volunteering at a high-volume spay/neuter clinic. She recently earned her B.S. in finance.*



## ACHILLES

Cont'd from page 1

It can be hard to relocate with a pet, especially if you're facing financial difficulties or dealing with a landlord's pet restrictions. But a little advance planning may allow you to either take your pet with you or place him in a loving forever home before you move. FCAC can help you with this planning—and believe us, we want to help. Unfortunately, we typically don't hear from people in this situation until they show up at the shelter to give up their pet, distraught over the decision but with no time left to consider alternatives.

If you have chosen to own a pet, know that your pet sees *you* as his family, regardless of how you see him and even if, like most of us, you haven't always been

*The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.*

—Mahatma Gandhi

the perfect pet owner. So the second moral is this: **Your pet depends on you to watch out for him, even when life gets messy.** If you have to move and think you may not be able to take your pet, please contact us ([dculp@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:dculp@frederickcountymd.gov) 301-600-1735). We very much want to help keep families together.

## LAW

Cont'd from page 3

seen in Frederick County. Chained dogs are a particular problem; it is not uncommon for animal control officers to find a chained dog literally frozen to the ground or dead from heat prostration due to lack of proper shelter. Even with adequate shelter, chaining a dog forces that animal into a life of isolation that can drive him/her to aggression, neurotic behavior, and self-mutilation.

People who commit acts of neglect against animals are more likely than others to commit abusive acts against people. When an individual is insensitive to animal suffering, he or she is more likely to be unresponsive to the needs of

children or seniors living in the household. For example, in the case of animal hoarding, a well-meaning person who adopts too many animals to care for properly puts human and animal lives at risk due to poor sanitation in the home, zoonotic disease, and neglect of self and dependents.

The link between animal neglect and domestic violence is well established by several scientific studies. According to one survey, animals were abused in 88% of homes where child physical abuse was present. In another survey, 71% of women seeking shelter at a safe house reported that their partner had threatened, hurt, or killed their pet(s). In Maryland, human services, animal services, and law enforcement agencies share resources and cross-report in an effort to prevent animal abuse from leading to

domestic violence, and vice versa.

You can help stop animal neglect by being aware of the signs: animals provided with inadequate food, water, or shelter; dogs left chained outside; a pet that appears to have been abandoned; an excessive number of animals on a single property; or a large-scale, intensive dog breeding operation (a puppy mill). If you see or suspect animal neglect or another form of cruelty, report it to Frederick County Animal Control (301-600-1544 or 301-600-2558 after hours) or dial 911. You may choose to report animal cruelty anonymously, though doing so may hinder the investigation. You may also submit complaints related to animal cruelty online: <https://www.frederickcountymd.gov/122/Report-Cruelty>.